N. Y. Union Theological Seminary
November 20. 1841.

Dear Brethren -

It affords me the highest pleasure that the Society of Inquiry in this Seminary have made it my duty to communicate with you and solicit your correspondence. No one will doubt of the utility of a correspondence carried on upon christian principles; and it may be especially useful to those who are about to engage in the same great enterprize, to admonish eachother, and council together as to the best means for accomplishing the object. We have a common object in view, and the best means for attaining the end, so glorious as that of the conversion of sinners and the world, should be paramount to every other consideration. We are accustomed to look forward to our active duties in the Ministry with alternate hopes and fears. Shall I be a successful minister? Shall I honor Christ in my ministry? & how shall I become the honored instrument of winning many souls to Christ? Should be questions of solemn import with each one of us, who are expecting soon to be invested with so holy an office. And the contemplation of these questions suggests the importance of a high standard of piety in the rising Ministry. The Church after

a season of distracting excitement, and fear, and suspense, has at length settled down into a calm — I had almost said, a death-like stupor. The thirst for novelty which raged in the Chh. has, it is true, passed away, but the effects of its leveling principles are yet felt, and the pious and judicious are beginning to wake up and mourn over the desolations which are made. They see that they have been distracted by their own radicalism, which has been lightened by a clap of inefficient and unstable ministers, and they turn their eyes to us, the rising ministry, to build up the breaches which have already been made. Yet they do it with fear and trembling. They see the death-like stillness which reigns in the Chh. of God, and breathe out ejaculations to the great head of the Chh. for a holy ministry, while they pant after the bread of life. They feel that new life and vigor cannot be instilled into its dormant members without it; and that unless the ministry are awake the Chh. will sleep, and its pulsation will cease, and it will lie a dead trunk, to be fed upon by devouring monsters, until the trump shall sound, and call together the mangled limbs, bone with bone, to stand in judgment. But, brethren, may not these dry bones yet live here? may not the breath of life again be

breathed into this lifeless clay? We believe it may, yet doubtless I expect our united thoughts upon this subject- when I say that it can only be attained by a holy ministry.
There is one other thought- which it would be well for us to dwell upon; which is, the influence of a holy ministry upon our unevangelized fields of labor. The western States are emphatically, and I may add even a great portion of our own state, now in a process of transition. The contest for spiritual life, and moral death, under the prince of evil, will soon meet in a decisive engagement. The lines are being drawn. But- to human eyes how fearful the prospect! a little band of faithful disciples, against a mighty host of delusion, and infidelity and antichrist! But one, clad in sufficient armor, can vanquished a host. And what would be the moral power that would be exerted by the millions of our own beloved country, if converted to God, in the renovation of a lost and guilty world to christ! And it seems to me that labor bestowed upon foreign fields is comparatively useless, while the fountain from which must flow the streams of life is being filled with noxious weeds distilling poison and death. America must become thoroughly evangelized- become truly what she professes to be "christian America" before we can look forward to the world's conversion as a thing of

possible attainment; and when that is done a powerful engine is set in motion for its accomplishment. For what could not these millions of enlightened christians, under the blessing of God, accomplish! I should be glad to continue this subject, but I must close. Will you favor us with a speedy reply? The general state of religion in the

To the Society of Inquiry
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city is that of coldness and stupidity. We as candidates for the gospel ministry partake too much of the general feeling, yet perhaps our prayer meetings (semi weekly) were never better attended. We should be glad to hear how far the recent revival extended, in the college & Seminary, and what is the influence and apparent results it has left behind it. Such an account may do us good in stirring us up to more active duties. Yours in the gospel. J. Rosenbraus. Sec. for domestic correspondence